

THE WINGED CHARIOT

VOLUME IV - Issue 6

THE WINGED CHARIOT

% MoonStar Enterprises

P. O. Box 8458

San Diego, CA 92102

A newsletter devoted to the Tarot discipline. Annual subscriptions: \$10.00 U.S.A., \$12.50 Canada/Mexico and \$15.00 elsewhere. Eight issues published erratically. Sample copies \$2.00.

Back issues of certain issues from Volumes II and III are available: \$2.00 each.

Personal ads are free. Business ads cost \$3.00 for 25 words or less + 15¢ per additional word. Ads must be Tarot oriented and we reserve the right to edit or refuse ads.

Make checks and money orders payable to Tracey Hoover. Comparable trades are acceptable in lieu of payment, subject to the Editor's discretion.

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THE TOWER

"Alexandria's was a beacon-tower,
and Babylon's an image of the moving heavens,
a log-book of the Sun's journey and the moon's"
(Blood and the Moon, William Butler Yeats)

The Tower is one of the most straightforward images in the Tarot Major Arcana. Renditions of traditional, Egyptian and contemporary decks vary slightly in their imagery. It is the third and last object depicted in the Major Arcana series (after the Chariot and the Wheel), and its status as a human-made structure is critical to its interpretation.

Usually the top of a brick tower is hit by lightning. The body of the tower may be square and the top round. The top may be spiked, resembling a crown. The Tower of the Egyptian decks is a pyramid structure. Two figures fall to the earth; sometimes one is crowned; sometimes both are men or they are male and female.

Especially when the Tower is flesh-tinted, it reveals the explicit sexual imagery of an ejaculating phallus.

Traditional definitions cast the Tower as the most negative card in the deck. It portends sudden, overwhelming catastrophe - events outside the control of human manipulation. This structure of careful human endeavor implies aspiration and the products of the intellect as well as imprisonment, rigidity and isolation. Thus when the arcanum is portrayed as a natural feature of the earth, such as an erupting volcano, its impact is diminished.

The trump has been named the Lightning-Struck or Blasted Tower, the House of God or Hospital (based on French misspellings), the Tower of Babel, the Fall of Atlantis, and Hell-Mouth.

The following commentary by a variety of Tarotists attests to the impact of the Tower's imagery:

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"Not everyone can reverse values with the calm and serenity of The Hanged Man and for some the only method for change is to get hit by lightning..." (Konraad)

"One is cast into freedom; one does not choose it. One can't choose. One merely wants it, and that won't set one free." (Balin)

"The lightning flash represents the same power as that which is drawn from above by the Magician and which lights the Hermit's lantern." (Gray)

"By keeping a tight control on our reactions we lessen the pain; we also do not release all the repressed material. Within ourselves the painful experience continues, never having gone its full course. By shielding the Tower from the lightning we become its prisoners." "One cannot approach truth gradually but only prepare for its onslaught." (Pollack)

"It is about the sense of betrayal we feel when our preconceptions are shattered..." (Woudhuysen)

"Man begets man and man kills man. This dichotomy is the mystery of Arcanum XVI, and it must be resolved within the heart of every human." (Sandbach & Ballard)

"...any structure or building, psychic or mental, when it does not adapt to embrace life, is destroyed by it." (Balbi)

"I tear down only to build anew." "Verily destruction is the foundation of existence." (Case, Book of Tokens)

"Arcanum XVI illustrates one of the most certain of principles of magic, that any destructive force, when the period of its orbit has been completed, will return to inflict punishment upon the sender." (Zain)

"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it." (Psalm 127)

"This Trump, associated with religious and political attitudes of the Piscean Age, is founded on the illusions that humanity can reach enlightenment through institutions and sophisticated laws." (Kent)

"This card is also concerned with the privilege of expressing anger." (Morgan)

"The tower should warn the people not to believe in it. It should serve as a reminder of the inner Temple and as a protection against the outer; it should be as a lighthouse, in a dangerous place where men have often been wrecked and where ships should not go." "If only men could see that almost all they know consists of the ruins of destroyed towers, perhaps they would cease to build them." (Ouspensky)

"The Tarot card TOWER HIT BY LIGHTNING portrays the atomic structure and the neural imprint structure fissioned by the intelligent application of energy. The Top (i.e., the head) of the tower has been 'blown.' The two figures float happily in the Einsteinian relativistic flux released from the old structure, ready to fabricate new realities. The lightning bolt is in the act of a far-away Jove-like deity. The Stage 17 Self-Actualized WoMan aims and releases the shot that blows the mental structure." (Leary)

"Human consciousness here is at last in direct contact with the primary forces of the hidden centre, the goal of the mystic quest. The light of Lucifer is not the gentle radiance of intuition filtering up from the depths, but the full glare of God-consciousness, undimmed light such as blinded Paul on the road to Damascus." (Douglas)

"...it is the ruin of the House of Life, when evil has prevailed therein, and above all that it is the rending of a House of Doctrine." (Waite)

"When these awakenings occur, they temporarily have a shattering effect upon our mental and physical structures because they usually tend to deal with the reversal of patterns of ideas we have held throughout our lives to be of unquestionable character." (D'Agostino)

"The law which tests all our theories has not singled us out for testing or punishment; it is in effect at all times and any forward movement of ours will bring us into contact with it. It is always there, but we do not know it until we have built our tower." (Ellis)

"...the flesh-colour of the building may indicate that the entire structure is supposed to stand for the human body; the lightning flash striking off the castellated tower may be taken as implying that man's head (i.e., his reasoning faculties) are affected to such an extent that he is physically or mentally ill." (Gettings)

"When the lighthouse becomes a prison, disruptive forces will shatter obstacles to cosmic consciousness." (Caraway)

"If the intellect succeeds in catching occasional glimpses of the true nature of things, then its world collapses and ends in destruction and chaos. To the spiritually unprepared and immature mind, the nature of reality, of unveiled truth, therefore appears in terrible form." (Govinda)

"The Tower has a similar meaning to the myth of the Phoenix bird which renewed itself by destroying itself in the flames." (Gardner)

"To be struck by lightning means, symbolically, to be touched by the hand of God; it marks one forever as someone deserving special attention." "... the concrete tower, like the hard outer shell of a nut, is being cracked open to release the 2 living inner 'kernels,' seen falling toward the soil. There they will presumably take root and begin a new life."

"Towers attract lightning." (Nichols)

BOOK REVIEW

Kaplan, Stuart R.; THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF TAROT (Vol. II); 1986; U.S. Games Systems, Inc.; New York.

Volume II of Kaplan's groundbreaking chronology of the discipline has been eagerly anticipated since the issuance of Volume I in 1978. Its weighty 552 pages expands the historical exploration of the Tarot, concentrating on decks from the 15th to the 19th centuries. Collectors will be delighted with extensive illustrations of early decks and an expanded bibliography.

Kaplan devotes considerable attention to the study of the Visconti-Sforza Tarots, which are the earliest manifestations of Tarot decks still extant. Like Moakley (The Tarot Cards Painted by Bonifacio Bembo) and Dummett (The Game of Tarot), he investigates the symbolic content and artistic rendition in order to place the earliest Tarots in a historical context. Unlike Dummett, he displays a sensitivity to metaphysical Tarotists by balancing and evaluating the Tarot's heritage as a gaming and/or esoteric/symbolic device.

The Table of Contents succinctly outlines the text: Early References to Playing Cards and Tarocchi; 4 chapters on the Visconti-Sforza Tarots and family; Bonifacio Bembo and the Fifteenth-Century Tarocchi; a look at Petrarch, da Tortona, Colleoni and Isabella d'Este, who impacted the earliest Tarots; Early Symbolism of the Major Arcana; Sequence and Titles of the Major Arcana; Identifying Tarot Cards; Tarot Cardmakers; Tax Stamps on Playing Cards; Mincheate and Tarocco Siciliano Cards; 15th-17th Century Cards; 18th-19th Century Cards; and Tarock Packs.

The obvious value of such a work is as a comprehensive resource. But additionally, its meticulous grounding in the physical facts of the Tarot's emergence is an invaluable enhancement of the discipline. It validates the concept of the Tarot as a discipline. It documents the reality of the Tarot against the obfuscation of the considerable dogma attached to it throughout its history.

At \$35 it's a steal. Buy it, revel in it, and keep it as a pacifier until the anticipated Volume III (addressing the contemporary Tarot world) emerges.

W H A T ' S N E W

*****SUBSCRIBER K. FRANK JENSEN (SPILKAMMERET, SCT. HANS-
GADE 20, DK 4000, ROSKILDE, DENMARK) OFFERS US THE OPPORTU-
NITY TO ORDER A DANISH DECK CONCEIVED BY ERWIN NEUTZSKY
WULFF AND EXECUTED BY OLE CHRISTENSEN. HE DESCRIBES IT AS
AN OVERSIZED WHITE-AND-BLACK MAJOR ARCANA OF 34 CARDS; "THE
EXTRA CARDS (ARE) FORCES THE PRACTISING MAGICIAN HAS TO
STAND UP AGAINST." CARD TITLES ARE IN LATIN. A MONEY ORD-
ER IN THE AMOUNT OF 150 DANISH KRONER MADE OUT TO MR. JEN-
SEN WILL COVER THE COST OF THE DECK PLUS AIR POSTAGE. IT
IS THIS POTENTIAL FOR NETWORKING AND SHARING RESOURCES THAT
IS MOST AFFIRMING FOR THE EXISTENCE OF THE WINGED CHARIOT.

A new feminist resource - Diane Stein's The Women's Spirituality Book - contains a chapter devoted to the Tarot that is a goldmine of resources. In it, Stein chronicles the history of decks and books oriented to the feminine principle. The Major Arcana is defined primarily through the insights of Gail Fairfield (Choice-Centered Tarot), the Motherpeace Tarot and Book of Aradia Major Arcana. The numerology associations of the numbered cards of the Minor Arcana are defined by Shekhinah Mountainwater, who contributed in the manifestation of the Book of Aradia and the Daughters of the Moon Tarot. In addition to the established decks mentioned, Thea's Tarot, the Amazon Tarots and the Barbara Walker Tarot, Stein offers illustrations of Shekhinah's unpublished deck and Jesse Cougar's "A Poet's Tarot."

Shekhinah's Tarot is planned as a round, colored deck to be accompanied by a workbook. Requests for information about the deck can be sent to Shekhinah at P.O. Box 2991, Santa Cruz, CA 95063.

A Poet's Tarot is a rectangular black-and-white deck with poetic metaphors on the back of each. It costs \$14.95 plus \$1.00 for shipping and can be ordered through Tough Dove Books, P.O. Box 526, Little River, CA 95456.

DISCLAIMER: Stein makes it very clear that some of the resources she shares in her text are meant for women only. You male feminists are on your own - meaning that I'd rather not be cited as your source of information, OK?

It never ceases to amaze me that - as spiritually isolated as I am here in the Midwest - some of the more fascinating Tarot materials I come across are birthed here. The first such occurrence was my happening upon the New Vision Tarot. At the same bookshop where I found that deck (the Sands of Time shop in Milwaukee), I've discovered another treasure - Priscilla Schwei's "Solomon's 72 Spirits Card deck." The cards are assigned to 5° astrological decanates and one of the 72 spirits listed in The Lesser Key of Solomon, a magical text. A zodiac sign and planetary ruler appear at the top of each card, followed by decanate and calendar assignments. The name of the spirit centered over its particular talisman is the focus of the card, beneath which is a pictorial symbol of the spirit's nature. At the bottom appears the number of the card and a definitive keyword. The cards are divided into four Orders: Powers (fire signs), Dominations (earth signs), Thrones (air signs), and Virtues (water signs). Although the deck is not technically a Tarot, it would enhance anyone's collection. It costs \$8.00 (plus postage) and the publisher is given as Aquila Astrology, P.O. Box 1302, Kenosha, WI 53141.

In recent personal correspondence, Ffiona Morgan has shared with me that a revised edition of the Daughters of the Moon Tarot will soon be available. The revised cards are sturdier, with a plastic-coated backing. The back design has changed from the image of the Moon-goddess Yemaya to that of a white crescent moon against a purple backdrop. Of the new designs I've seen, there are significantly altered renditions of the Priestess, Crone of Flames (Cerridwen), Two of Pentacles (Bull-Leapers), Lovers, and Mother of Cups (Nammu). Ffiona can be reached at 37155 Covelo Rd., Willets, CA 94590, for information concerning the revised edition.

OLDER NEWS: By now everyone should be aware of the Mythic Tarot illustrated by Tricia Newell based on the collaborative vision of Taroist Juliet Sharman-Burke (The Complete Book of Tarot) and well-known astrologer Liz Greene. An in-depth exploration of the Tarot as geared to classic Greek mythological concepts.

Rachel Pollack's Tarot: The Open Labyrinth follows her Seventy-Eight Degrees of Wisdom series with interpretations of a variety of readings. Because it does not really break fresh ground, it is not as exciting as her earlier work.

THE STAR

The image of the Star/Stars, or Star Maiden, is consistent throughout traditional, Egyptian, Rider-type and non-standard Tarots. A young nude woman kneels on the ground. In front of her is a pool upon which s/he balances one foot. From one hand s/he pours water from an urn back into the pool; the other hand pours water from an urn onto the earth. In most decks s/he is drawn in profile to the left. Egyptian decks tend to portray her facing right and resting her knee rather than her foot on the water.

Against the backdrop of a twilight- or dawn-tinged sky blazes a gigantic eight-pointed star surrounded by seven tiny star satellites. The large star is most commonly identified as the planet Venus and the small stars the constellation of The Pleiades. Both Venus and the Pleiades are symbolically linked to the zodiac sign Taurus, which is sometimes assigned to the seventeenth trump; however, Venus, Gemini and Aquarius have also been linked to the Star.

Behind the Star Maiden grows a large bush or tree, upon which a bird or butterfly alights. The bird and butterfly are symbols of the soul and the tree represents the soul's temporary refuge from the trials mandated by life on the physical plane.

Sometimes early Tarots depicted a male astrologer with a compass measuring the evening stars. The Aquarian Tarot displays a gorgeous bird underneath a radiant star. Several feminist decks show the Star-Goddess in the heavens creating the Milky Way.

Despite the woman's nudity and sensual attributes of the planet Venus, the card is rarely described in sexual terms. Her nakedness proclaims the unadorned Truth and the star/planet is the star of Hope. The peaceful setting suggests rest, healing and the meditative state. It is one of the most positive cards in the Tarot, serving as a bridge between the catastrophic effects of the Tower and the "Dark Night of the Soul" journey looming ahead in the Moon.

The Star Maiden is commonly compared to the Temperance figure. Her open nudity and stance is a startling

contrast to the swathed, straight-backed Temperance angel. Temperance contains her magical fluid between the two urns, almost hoarding it; the Star Maiden pours her out on the two environments of water and earth without restraint.

The following material expresses the philosophies of a variety of Tarotists with respect to the Star arcana:

"Your birthday gift from the star (traditionally the 'water-bearer') is more than self-discovery. It is awareness of yourself as part of the evolutionary pattern of life." (Hasbrouck)

"And many of the meanings attributed to stars involve, in some way, the quality of movement: the Star of Bethlehem guiding the Three Wise Men, the order of stars and their function in primitive as well as scientific time-keeping, the forces of the spirit struggling against the forces of darkness, the force of the universe expanding and thus implying the mystic centre." (Butler)

"We too go fishing every time we meditate, waiting till the mind is still, then baiting the hook with desire to know the answer to what is needed, and awaiting the nibble, the answer from within. Through meditation, the powers of the subconscious are raised to a conscious level, as the fish is lifted out of the pool." (HOMANS)

"It is written that when you have found the beginning of the way, the stars will guide you." (Stuart)

"The picture suggests all those mythical chalices that could never be emptied." "The Star maiden combines the two female archetypes, the inner sensitivity of the High Priestess brought out and expressed with the passion of the Empress." "She has gone beyond the mysteries." (Pollack)

"The positioning of the pitcher in the woman's left hand, covering her pudenda, is a clear association of the creative energies with sexual energies." (Gettings)

"Each of us is a clay jug of flesh and bones, in which is poured the water of eternal life. When we die, the water is poured back into the ocean: we can 'borrow' the water of the Soul for the duration of our lives." (Woudhuysen)

"...she is meditative energy that fructifies the earth and its waters by virtue of her inherent connectedness and awareness of larger energy patterns and movements." (Potts)

"Stars are pinpoints of illumination scaled down to human dimensions." "...the kneeling figure represents a hitherto inaccessible aspect of the psyche which, like a fairytale princess, was formerly imprisoned in a tower and held captive there by cruel King Logos, ruler of our masculine-oriented society." "The woman is both active and acted upon" "Hers is the godlike absorption of a child creating a new world out of water and mud." (Nichols)

"Spiritually speaking, water, or the 'soul' of water... is ardour, passion raised to its highest point of nobility and disinterest." (Maxwell)

"The stars incline but do not compel." (occult aphorism)

"We must then, learn to use our minds, not choosing one function over the other, but by knowing when to gather information and when to listen to the harp of intuition, for it will be playing the song of the spirit with the data with which is has been provided." (Ellis)

"...when we really succeed in meditation we discover that what happens is not that we meditate, but rather that we are meditated." "The pool is the universal consciousness, or reservoir of cosmic mind-stuff, which is stirred into vibration by the act of meditation." (Case)

"I am the blue-lidded daughter of Sunset; I am the naked brilliance of the voluptuous night-sky." (Crowley)

"The liquid in the maiden's pitchers is living water, poured out over stagnant waters and the sterile earth." (Benavides)

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32)

"She is the goddess of the waters of rebirth flowing from 'behind the region of the summer stars;' she is the source of dew that falls from heaven just before the dawn." (Innes)

"When that fierce virgin and her star
Out of the fabulous darkness called."

(Yeats, The Resurrection)

"But in the night of Death, Hope sees a star and
listening Love can hear the rustling of a wing."
(Ingersoll)

"The universe is bathed in her light." (Morgan)

"The light of understanding, like that of the star,
probably takes a long time to reach other beings, and
often reaches them only in a phantom state - as is the
case with stars whose light we still see long after they
themselves burned out and are dark." (Balin).

"Now the being gets in touch, through the body and
the feelings, with how things are flowing and what the
purpose of life is." (Noble)

"The Star represents boundless, free energy, the
pure energy of the Universe that can be used for any
purpose." (Fairfield)

"Some scholars suggest that this card allegorizes
the sacrament of baptism." (Kaplan)

"We think we are saving the soul by seeking the
light; actually, the light of the soul radiates star-
light and lifts us out of the depths." (Metzner)

"That which has been withdrawn from the sources of
life is being returned..." (Denning & Phillips)

"The large eight-pointed star is the Quintessence of
Being. The smaller stars are the differentiation of the
Quintessence into the seven interior planets or chakras
of being....During meditation these forces combine to
initiate certain chemical and electrical changes in the
organism." (D'Agostino)

"At the same time as she is helping others, she is
also feeding her own reservoir of knowledge, so she will
not run dry." (Cowie)

"...Soul is to be looked upon as an automous part of
[wo/man] governed by its own will and laws. Emptying
the two vessels means the complete detachment from every
bond." (Gottlob)

THE BARBARA WALKER TAROT

After the tantalizing glimpses of this deck in Walker's The Secrets of the Tarot, U.S. Games Systems, Inc. has at last released the manifested cards. And it is well worth the wait - my only quibble being that the images are too small and surrounded with too much white space. The fully illustrated deck bears mythological and mystical motifs executed in bold, richly colored vignettes.

While the above-mentioned text describes the pack in detail, the accompanying instruction booklet is an excellent primer. Each card is described according to its unique symbolism and the explanation then segues into divinatory associations.

The arrangement of the Court cards is a fascinating concept: The Princess and Prince (Page and Knight) of each suit are mythologically paired, as are the Queen and King. The pairings also deal with different aspects of the elemental associations of each suit. For example, the Princess and Prince of Pentacles are Celtic Nimue and Merlin; they express the magical aspects of the Pentacles. The Mother-Goddess image of Erda and mountain god Baal depict the earthy nature of the Pentacles as the Queen and King of the suit.

The numbered cards of the Minor Arcana bear a definitive keyword above the illustration, all of which are unique to this deck. The Six of Cups, for instance, is entitled "Childhood" and portrays a sitting youth gazing up at a gigantic mother figure.

The backing of the cards contains 2 red circles forming a lemniscate. In the upper circle is a downward-pointing triangle; in the lower an upward-pointing triangle (both symbolizing the Hindu Yoni Yantra, a "female-genital symbol of the source of all creation."

Walker's interest in Tarot "evolved from studies of medieval heresies and surviving remnants of Goddess worship in Europe's nominally Christian culture." Her interest has flowered into a deck of profound impact and significance.

At \$12.95, the deck is widely available. It is recommended to Tarotists at any level of interest.

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Actually teaches Tarot instead of merely describing it. Appropriate for beginners, yet contains many advanced techniques for professionals and teachers. Filled with ideas, information and illustrations. \$15.00 post-paid to: Mary Greer, 601 Diamond St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

TAROT NOTECARDS, including the Queen of Wands, Ace of Wands and Queen of Pentacles; \$1.00 for any combination of 3; order from B. R. Hoffman, Box 821, Flushing, NY 11354.

MAGICKAL NOTECARDS, stationery and more. Fantasy/Pagan images. Send \$1.00 for catalog and sample card to Appletree Cards and Gifts, P. O. Box 5(W), Cottage Grove, OR 97424.

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Q U O T A B L E

"And it came to pass that Diana, after her daughter had accomplished her mission or spent her time on earth among the living, recalled her, and gave her the power that when she had been invoked... to gratify those who had conjured her by granting her or him success....:

"To bless or curse with power friends or enemies
To converse with spirits
To find hidden treasures in ancient ruins
To conjure the spirits of priests who died leaving treasures
To understand the voice of wine
To change water into wine
To divine with cards
To know the secrets of the hand
To cure diseases
To make those who are ugly beautiful
To tame wild beasts"

"Whatever thing should be asked from the spirit of Aradia, that should be granted unto those who merited her favour."
(Leland, Aradia, Or The Gospel of the Witches)

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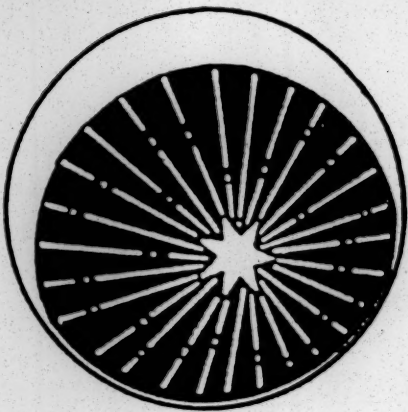
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